

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 2501 – HB 2497

March 25, 2014

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Requires local education agencies (LEAs) to prominently display their codes of student behavior and discipline at each school and in the office of the school principal. Requires LEAs' codes of student behavior and discipline to include: circumstances in which students may be removed from the classroom, suspended, or expelled; when students may be sent to an alternative school; consideration for self-defense and the student's disciplinary history or disability; how a principal will communicate with a student's parent or guardian regarding situations that require student discipline; and the LEAs' prohibition on harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (014629): Deletes all language of the original bill. Requires each governing body of a local education agency (LEA) or public school to formulate a behavior code and a graduated disciplinary procedure for all students on or before January 1, 2015. Such incremental discipline procedures shall not be applied to offenses in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3401(g). Sets forth what the behavior code must include and requires all policies to be evaluated annually by the local board of education. In formulating their behavior and discipline codes, LEAs shall seek input from parents, employees, and law enforcement personnel. Behavior and discipline procedures shall be posted on each LEA website and published in the student handbook. Deletes provisions in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-4007 that relate to the posting of student behavior and discipline procedures.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- LEAs continually revise and make new policies. Any increase in local expenditures to update student codes of conduct is estimated to be not significant.
- Copies of policies on student behavior and discipline must be posted in each school under current law.

SB 2501 – HB 2497

- No fiscal impact on state expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/msg